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NOFORN SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/MAG AND EUR/CE E.O. 12958: DECL: 2/1/2020

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SUBJECT: SWISS SCORE IN LIBYA: HAMDANI CLEARED OF IMMIGRATION CHARGES REF: A) TRIPOLI 73; B) TRIPOLI 58

CLASSIFIED BY: Gene A. Cretz, Ambassador, U.S. Embassy Tripoli, Department of State. REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

1.(S/NF) Summary: In a January 31 ruling, the Libyan Immigration Court acquitted Swiss businessman Rachid Hamdani of immigration violations and HAMDANI ACUITTED OF IMMIGRATION CHARGES

2.(C) Swiss Charge Stefano Lazarotto confirmed press reports that Swiss businessman Rachid Hamdani had been cleared of all immigration-related ONE MORE APPEAL AND TWO TAX VERDICTS TO GO

3.(C) Lazarotto noted that the second Swiss businessman, Max Goeldi, had attended his appeals trial at the immigration court on January 28 and FORWARD MOVEMENT ON POLITICAL TRACK

4.(S/NF) Resolution of the legal aspects of the Swiss-Libyan contretemps, according to Lazarotto, will facilitate progress toward piecing back

5.(S/NF) Comment: The German-sponsored diplomatic initiative, coupled with Swiss hardball tactics on Schengen visas for Libyan officials, appea